

PSYC 3350: Cultural Psychology

Fall 2015

Class: Tuesdays 11:30 – 14:30 in CLH E

Prerequisites: PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology with a minimum grade of C

Course Director: Jorida Cila, joridac@yorku.ca
Office location: 072G BSB
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:45 – 3:45
Website: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jorida_Cila

Teaching Assistants: Wendy Zhao wendyz37@yorku.ca (Students with last name initial A to I)
Office location: 141 BSB
Office hours: Mondays 11:00 – 12:00

Petrice Gentile gentilep@yorku.ca (Students with last name initial J to Z)
Office location: 133D BSB
Office hours: Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:30

Required Readings:

Text Heine, S. J. (2012). *Cultural Psychology (2nd Edition)*. New York, NY: Norton.

Journal Articles A journal article will be assigned each week except for the introductory lecture. These are available through the York library's e-resources or through Moodle. There are two purposes to including articles in the course: (a) to give you the opportunity to familiarize yourselves with academic papers – which are written differently than textbooks; and (b) help you with your own papers.

Course Objective:

The main goal of this course to get you to think about the deep and meaningful ways in which culture shapes who we are, how we think, and what we do. We will try to do this by addressing theory, research, and methods pertaining to culture and psychology. The potential role of culture is examined across a range of psychological areas including the self-concept, emotion, developmental processes, and interpersonal relationships, among other topics.

Course Format:

Each week we will have a lecture which may include a research demonstration, some video, class discussion, etc. Each lecture will be largely based on the assigned chapter from the textbook as well as an additional journal article. Typically, lectures are designed to stimulate your interest in cultural psychology and not all of the information presented in the text can be covered in class. Nevertheless, you are responsible for covering the text and the additional readings in their entirety. Similarly, lectures may contain information not included in the text or the assigned readings. So, if you miss a class it would be a good idea to borrow notes from a classmate, as all information presented in class (including videos and research demonstrations) may lead to questions appearing on exams.

To better assist you with your papers, short tutorials will be held in the last 15 minutes of class. In these tutorials we will discuss various issues (e.g., what is a research proposal, how to choose a topic, how to design a study, etc.). We will start providing information on the paper in week 2.

Evaluation:

- Exam 1: 35% (October 20, during class time)
- Exam 2: 35% (December 9 – 23)
- Paper topic: 5% (October 27, by 4:00 pm)
- Final Paper: 25% (November 24, by 4:00 pm)

Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative. The paper topic will be a one-page, double-spaced proposal of a research idea. The final paper will be five double-spaced pages, excluding the title page and references. The final paper will be submitted via Moodle using Turnitin. Detailed information on the paper will be provided at a later time.

Bonus Marks

You have the opportunity to gain up to 2 bonus marks if you serve as a research participant in a Cultural Psychology study. Announcements for these studies will be given throughout the course.

Drop Deadline:

November 9, 2015 is the last day to drop the course without receiving a grade on your transcript.

Grading

Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
55-59	D+
50-54	D
40-49	E
0-39	F

Missed Exams:

According to University Policy, the only legitimate reason for missing an exam (i.e., one for which a make-up will be scheduled) is because of medical problems or exceptional circumstances. If you miss an exam, please e-mail Wendy Zhao (wendyz37@yorku.ca) within 48 hours of the missed exam. Clearly indicate your full name and student number in your e-mail. If you are unable to contact the TA during this period, documentation accounting for the delay must be provided. Documentation verifying the reason for the missed exam (see below) must be provided either prior to or at the time of the one-time only make-up exam. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of 0.

- A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counsellor. The Attending Physician's Statement must include (i) the full name, mailing address and telephone number of the Physicians, (ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and (iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have seriously affected your ability to study and perform over the period in question.
- B. Exams missed on the ground of exceptional non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation: obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc. Receipts from emergency travel must indicate destination, departure and return dates.

In the case of the make up exam, you must be prepared to write within the week following the missed exam. Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original exam. It is your responsibility to check with the TA about the date/time of the make-up. A conflict with another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing a make-up, unless the conflict involves another exam. There will be no second opportunity for a make-up.

General Information:

Important information for students regarding University policies, including Academic Honesty/Integrity (see below as well) can be found at: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

Cheating/Plagiarism:

The University does not look favourably on cheating of any kind and the penalties for doing so are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism and academic honesty. Go to <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/> and read the section 'For Students.'

Cheating: Cheating is the attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation. Among the forms this kind of dishonesty can take are; obtaining a copy of an examination or learning an examination question before it is officially available; copying another person's answer to an examination question; consulting an unauthorized source during an examination; obtaining assistance by means of documentary, electronic or other aids which are not approved by the instructor; or changing a score or a record of an examination result.

Impersonation: It is a breach of academic honesty to have someone impersonates one's self in class, in a test or examination, or in connection with any other type of assignment in a course. Both the impersonator and the individual impersonated may be charged.

Plagiarism and other misappropriation of the work of another: Plagiarism is the representation of another person's ideas or writing as one's own. The most obvious form of this kind of dishonesty is the presentation of all or part of another person's published work as something one has written. However, paraphrasing another's writing without proper acknowledgment may also be considered plagiarism. It is also a violation of academic honesty to represent another's artistic or technical work or creation as one's own. This is not to say that students should not use the work of others with the proper acknowledgment.

Sanctions for Academic Misconduct:

When verified, a violation of academic honesty may lead to the following penalties:

1. Oral or written disciplinary warning or reprimand;
2. A make-up assignment or examination;
3. Lower grade or failure on assignment or examination;
4. Failure in the course;
5. Suspension from the University for a definite period;
6. Notation on transcript;
7. Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate

Email Etiquette

The Career Centre at York University has prepared a brief document intended to help students write effective emails. Below are 12 key tips they provide (the full document is available on Moodle – it's only two pages, so I encourage everyone to read it).

- Make your subject line brief but clear
- Avoid being overly familiar
- Briefly indicate who you are and how you know the recipient
- Use real words instead of slang or text language
- Use correct grammar
- Keep messages short and to the point
- Be careful what you say and how you say it
- Don't say anything in an email that you wouldn't say in public
- Respond promptly
- Include the email chain in your response
- Use a signature that includes contact information
- Be polite

Course Timeline and Associated Readings

September 15 – Introduction; Culture & Human Nature (Chapters 1 & 2)

September 22 – Cultural Evolution (Chapter 3)

Uskul, A. K., Kitayama, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2008). Ecocultural basis of cognition: Farmers and fishermen are more holistic than herders. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 105, 8552–8556.

September 29 – Research Methods (Chapter 4)

Hormes, J., & Rozin, P. (2010). Does "craving" carve nature at the joints? Absence of a synonym for craving in many languages. *Addictive Behaviors*, 35, 459–463.

October 6 – Development and Socialization (Chapter 5)

Rothbaum, F., Weisz, J., Pott, M., Miyake, K., & Morelli, G. (2000). Attachment and culture: Security in the United States and Japan. *American Psychologist*, 55, 1093–1104.

October 13 – Self & Personality; Motivation (Chapters 6 & 7)

Markus, H. R., Uchida, Y., Omoregie, H., Townsend S. S. M., & Kitayama S. (2006). Going for the gold: Models of agency in Japanese and American contexts. *Psychological Science*, 17, 103–112.

October 20 – Mid-term Exam

October 27 – Perception & Cognition (Chapter 8)

***** Paper topic due on this date *****

Masuda, T., Gonzalez, R., Kwan, L., & Nisbett, R. E. (2008). Culture and aesthetic preference: Comparing the attention to context of East Asians and Americans. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 34, 1260–1275.

November 3 – Emotions (Chapter 14)

Elfenbein, H.A., & Ambady, N. (2003). Universals and cultural differences in recognizing emotions. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 12, 159–164.

November 10 – Multicultural Issues (Chapter 10)

Hong, Y.-Y., Morris, M. W., Chiu, C.-Y., & Benet-Martinez, V. (2000). Multicultural minds: A dynamic constructivist approach to culture and cognition. *American Psychologist*, 55, 709–720.

November 17 – Morality & Religion (Chapter 13)

Gervais, W. M., Willard, A.K., Norenzayan, A., & Henrich, J. (2011) The cultural transmission of faith: Why innate intuitions are necessary, but insufficient, to explain religious belief. *Religion*, 41, 389–410.

November 24 – Relationships and Groups (Chapter 9)

***** Paper due on this date *****

Adams, G. (2005). The cultural grounding of personal relationship: Enemyship in North American and West African worlds. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 948–968.

December 1 – Health (Chapters 11 & 12)

Kuo, B. C. H., Hsu, W. S., & Lai, N. H. (2011). Indigenous crisis counselling in Taiwan: An exploratory qualitative case study of an expert therapist. *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling*, 33, 1–21.